

Supervisor Pam Slater-Price

District 3 Slate

April 2010

Third District, County of San Diego

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Drug Abuse Terror Grows

Prescription Drug Take Back Day Is April 17

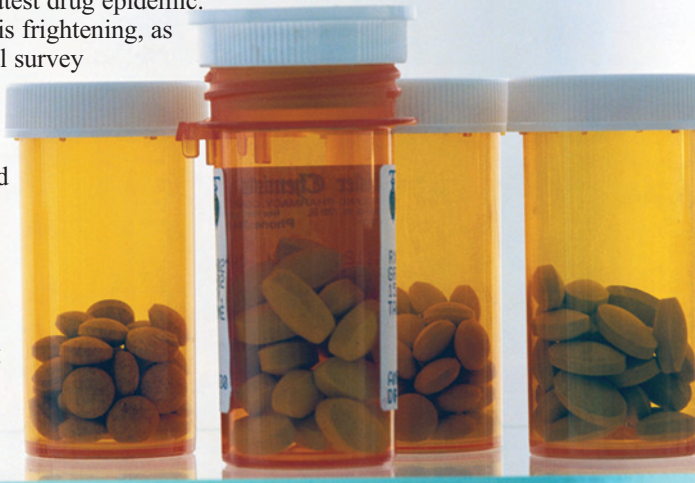
Revelations in the past month that the deaths of pop icon Michael Jackson and actor Corey Haines were attributed to alleged overdoses of prescription medicines is disturbing news for those trying to fight off the nation's latest drug epidemic.

The news is frightening, as a 2008 federal survey found that 1 in 5 people age 12 and older admitted to taking a prescription drug for nonmedical reasons.

The leading culprit, Oxycodone, is a synthetic opiate that

gives a heroin-type rush. Oxycodone is the main ingredient in OxyContin, a prescription pain killer traditionally given to cancer patients. Other prescription drugs often being abused are Percodan, Percocet and Vicodin.

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Supervisors Trim Grant Program

Responding to the economic uncertainties facing the County of San Diego, the Board of Supervisors agreed on a 4-1 vote to reduce the funds available for the Neighborhood Reinvestment Grant program by half, reducing the total to \$5 million for fiscal year 2010-11.

The program assists non-profit organizations, such as chambers of commerce, youth groups, youth sports leagues and others, meet one-time obligations or offset costs of community events or fund-raisers. The other \$5 million will be returned to the General Fund. The county budget is \$4.9 billion with most of that total dedicated to specific expenses as mandated by the state Legislature or Washington.

"This is another sign of the economic duress facing this county," explains Chairwoman Pam Slater-Price, who voted for the change. "Grants are awarded to organizations that contribute to

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County Wins \$16 Million Award To Promote Healthy Lifestyles

Chairwoman Pam Slater-Price has always said that prevention is the best medicine - and the best way to save taxpayer dollars. Obesity - especially impacting today's children - is a growing health threat. Recognizing this crisis, the County of San Diego is using a just-awarded \$16 million grant from the federal Centers for Disease Control to show parents and children how prevention through physical activity and healthy eating improve lives.

Throughout the two-year Communities Putting Prevention to Work grant period, county staff will collaborate with community partners to increase levels of physical activity in the region while improving accessibility to nutritious foods and reducing

obesity and other chronic diseases.

San Diego County is among 44 communities in the country to be awarded funds through this competitive grant process.

"This is great news for our residents," says Chairwoman Pam Slater-Price. "Funds will be used in support of the County's vision of a healthy, safe and thriving community for children and families."

Examples of the grant projects include:

- Increase consumption of healthy, locally grown food in schools, foster group homes, senior meal sites and other locations.
- Increase the number of farmers markets that are participating with nutrition assistance programs.

Increase opportunities for physical ac-



tivity in before/after school programs.

- Work with land-use and transportation planners to increase opportunities for residents to be physically active and eat nutritious foods.

The 2009 San Diego Report Card on Children and Families revealed that nearly 30 percent of children in the fifth, seventh and ninth grades are overweight or obese. Research has shown that obese children have a higher risk of becoming overweight or obese adults. Approximately 55 percent of San Diego adults (1.2 million people) are overweight or obese. Obesity can lead to Type 2 diabetes, cancer, heart disease and other illnesses.

News of Note

County Helping Families

A partnership between two county agencies is helping families who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless. Housing and Community Development (HCD) received more than \$1.9 million in federal stimulus funds for the Homelessness Prevention and Rapid Rehousing Program. The program helps people and families facing a sudden financial crisis that could lead to homelessness, providing them with short- and medium-term rental assistance and services.



HCD and the San Diego County Office of Education then formed a partnership to identify at-risk families. Thirty-one families have already received help through the program, and HCD expects to assist about 150 families. Sixty percent of the funds must be used within two years, and all of the funds must be used within three years. The Office of Education refers families in need by working with homeless liaisons in more than 30 school districts within HCD's jurisdiction, which includes the unincorporated areas of the County and the cities of Del Mar, Poway and Solana Beach.

Cleaner Train Engines Arrive

Two new low-emission locomotives partially funded by the San Diego County Air Pollution Control District will soon be servicing the region. San Diego received \$1.7 million state grant that covers 60 percent of the cost of the locomotives, which are operated by the San Diego & Imperial Valley Railroad. The locomotives replace three older units; they reduce nitrogen oxide and particulate matter emissions by up to 90 percent and have a fuel savings of 20 percent to 30 percent.

The San Diego & Imperial Valley Railroad is a property of RailAmerica Inc., and runs on 33 miles along the MTS Trolley lines between San Diego and El Cajon, and San Diego and San Ysidro.



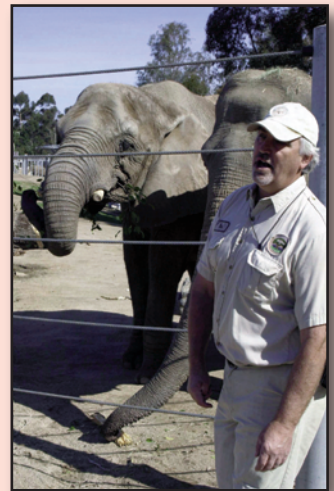
Message Worth Stressing

Elephants and extinction share the stage in the Zoological Society of San Diego's "Elephant Odyssey" exhibit (right) that illustrates the story of Southern California's vanished animal life. Students visiting the exhibit at the San Diego Zoo see an excavated "tar pit" that reveals fossilized remains of birds, mammals and reptiles that once roamed the region.



To show the evolutionary development, the exhibit showcases life-sized replicas (below left) with today's living cousins. Informational displays (left) explain how humans can help preserve species. The interactive exhibit also features five large radio collars that children can run through and play on. (below right). They imitate the radio collars used by researchers to save Asian and African elephants.

"The interactive radio collars are educational elements that help inspire Zoo guests and students to protect wildlife found locally and throughout the world," explained Chairwoman Pam Slater-Price, who authored a Neighborhood Reinvestment Grant last year that helped offset costs of the educational exhibit. Thousands of school children and countless number of tourists have toured Elephant Odyssey since it debuted.



Check Now To See If Your Passport Is Valid

With spring here and the vacation season approaching, the County of San Diego is reminding residents that passport fees may increase for those who plan to travel internationally or who want to cross the Mexican border.

The County is awaiting a pending State Department decision requiring the change. If approved, the adult passport book fee will increase from \$100 to \$135. The adult passport card fee goes from \$45 to \$55. The minor passport book fee increases from \$85 to \$105. The minor passport card fee goes from \$35 to \$40.

With the implementation of the second phase of the Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative (WHTI), travelers must have a passport to re-enter the United States when returning from Mexico, Canada, the Caribbean and Bermuda by land or sea

ports-of-entry. The first phase, which went into effect in 2007, required passports for re-entering the U.S. by air. The passport card is different from a passport book because it was designed to meet the requirements of the land and sea phase.

The passport card is valid in communities where crossing the border is a daily occurrence. The passport card is not valid for international air travel.

To apply for a passport book or passport card, visit the County Administration Center at 1600 Pacific Highway, Room 402. It normally takes up to six weeks to receive a passport; however, for an additional fee a resident can receive it within three weeks. Passport photographs are also offered through the county; the service is available between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. weekdays.

OUT AND ABOUT IN THE THIRD DISTRICT

Solana Beach: Murals Debut Draws A Crowd

The Solana Beach Library recently unveiled its newest artistic feature, a library mosaic created by renowned local artist Christie Beniston and inspired by the illustrations of Pura Belpré winner Rafael Lopez. Paid for by donations from the Friends of the Solana Beach Library and a Neighborhood Reinvestment Grant from Chairwoman Pam Slater-Price and the Board of Supervisors, the mural adorns the building's entry.

Beniston is a Solana Beach artist who has been creating public art for more than 25 years. She has won numerous awards at the San Diego County Fair and has been featured in various publications. Her art is seen throughout the county, with many mosaics at elementary schools and downtown parks.

Lopez is best known for his Mexican Surrealism and ability to use graphics to create an intricate symbolism.



Chairwoman Slater-Price (left) and artist Christie Beniston.



Cutting the ceremonial ribbon debuting the mosaic art exhibit at the Solana Beach Library are, from left above, branch Librarian Rebecca Lynn, Solana Beach Councilman Joe Kellejian, artist Christie Beniston, Solana Beach Councilman Dave Roberts, Chairwoman Pam Slater-Price; Earl Warren Middle School student Dea Boyadjiev, San Dieguito Union High School District Trustee Barbara Groth,

Earl Warren Middle School student Alex Kahng, and Joyce Bassett, president, Friends of the Solana Beach Library. Chairwoman Slater-Price (left) addressed the audience prior to the unveiling of the mural to a standing-room only audience (below).



Encinitas: Rotarians Invite Slater-Price

It was a beautiful day to be outside when Chairwoman Pam Slater-Price addressed a March luncheon gathering of about 100 members of the Encinitas Rotary Club hosted by San Diego Botanical Garden in Encinitas. She saluted the Rotarians for their community spirit and the positive impact they have on youth and others in the almost eight decades since the club was founded.

Discussing issues facing the County of San Diego, Chairwoman Slater-Price said that 2010 will be as challenging as 2009, as the county's two primary revenue streams - property and sales taxes - are both down. She repeated the Board of Supervisors' commitment to manage better with less as the economy begins the long road toward recovery. As an example, she said the county workforce has shrunk by 1,500 positions since 2004. She also addressed public safety, library funding and acquisition of open space.



Enjoying a laugh with Chairwoman Slater-Price were Tyler Miller (above left) and Kerry Witkin. Chairwoman Slater-Price chatted with John Osborne (left) and Neils Lund.



AROUND THE THIRD DISTRICT

PRESCRIPTION

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"There is an epidemic occurring right before us, and too often families fail to see it until the tragic consequences end with a visit to an emergency room or the morgue," says Chairwoman Pam Slater-Price, who leads the county Oxy Task Force and has been raising the issue for the past year. Fifty-one deaths were reported in San Diego County in 2009 directly linked to Oxycodone.

Nationwide, emergency room visits for overdoses increased significantly through 2007, according to a U.S. Department of Health & Human Services report delivered to the U.S. Judiciary Committee in March 2008.

To remove unwanted medicines from homes, a second "Prescription Drug Take Back Day" has been slated for 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. April 17. Participants can drop off unused prescription drugs with no questions asked. The first "Take Back" day last October resulted in the volunteer surrender of more than 320 pounds of prescription drugs.

Statistics compiled by the Centers for Disease Control show that overdose deaths from prescription painkillers tripled between 1996 and 2006, which saw 13,800 deaths. About 120,000 Americans are treated annually in hospital emergency rooms after overdosing on opioid painkillers.

April's "Take Back" day drop-off sites:

- County Administration Center, 1600 Pacific Highway.
- Scripps Memorial Hospital, Encinitas, 354 Santa Fe Drive.
- Tri-City Medical Center, 4202 Vista Way.
- Poway Sheriff's Station, 113100 Bowron Road.
- El Cajon Courthouse, 250 E. Main St.
- South Bay Courthouse, 500 Third Ave.

"The biggest and fastest-growing part of American's drug problem is prescription drug abuse, warned Robert DuPont, a former White House drug czar and former director of the National Institute on Drug Abuse in an interview with USA Today. "The statistics are unmistakable."

"The numbers speak for themselves. In one 10-month investigation, sheriff's deputies made 43 arrests and seized more than 1,800 tablets. Those arrested were between the ages of 17 and 23, came from middle- to upper-middle-class families, and had no prior criminal records," says Slater-Price. "This is the tip of the iceberg. There are thousands of pills sitting in bathrooms across this county. Each one is an invitation for abuse."

Call (877) 662-6384 to learn how to properly dispose of prescription pills.

GRANTS

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the quality of life we enjoy in San Diego County. Grants create jobs, help small businesses through this difficult time in our economy, and allow us all to better get to know and enjoy our communities."

Third District grants have gone to an elliptic list - girls softball and youth soccer for equipment, uniforms and scholarships; chambers of commerce and business groups that host community celebrations, merchant seminars and economic summits; groups that bring visual and performing arts to school-age children; and town councils and community-based organizations that host street fairs, movie nights in a park and other festivities.

"The Neighborhood Reinvestment Grant program is worthwhile," says Slater-Price. "It was no surprise that more than one hundred speakers spoke in support of the program. These were community leaders, business leaders, civic champions."

Working in conjunction with the San Diego County Taxpayers Association, Chairwoman Slater-Price and Supervisor Dianne Jacob late last year championed changes to the grant program that improved its transparency and made it is easier to review and apply for grants online through the county website.

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